



HOW CAN RESEARCH INFORM OUR ELT MATERIALS WRITING?



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More important questions

- How can we...
 - improve materials with reference to research in 'background' disciplines?
 - make decisions about methods and materials on a sound basis?
 - access relevant research insights?
 - conduct our own ELT research?

Translating research insights #1

Research shows lang learning needs ...
some attention to form.

So materials should...

- train form-function mapping.
- provide scope for noticing.
- explicitly demonstrate language points.
- include controlled practice activities.
- highlight phrases, collocations & colligations.

Translating research insights #2

Research shows lang learning needs ...

- substantial input.
- opportunities for output & interaction.
- focus on meaning.

So materials should...

- train Ls to use resources outside classroom.
- recycle new language.
- use various media for input.
- build up to production tasks.
- include pair / group work or tasks / projects.

Translating research insights #3

Research shows lang learning needs ...

- individualised language use.
- intrinsic motivation.
- different things for different Ls.

So materials should...

- include variety of activities / production tasks.
- allow for L choice.
- be appropriate for the context & Ls.
- feel supportive.
- utilise Ls other skills.

Translating research insights #4

Research shows lang learners...

show developmental readiness
according to their natural 'syllabus'.
do not accumulate grammar points
until fluent.

Or does it???



- ◎ Methodology books may not be as objectively based on research as we might think! (Scott Thornbury, IATEFL 2017)

Accessing Research

- www.ELTResearchBites.com
- IATEFL's ReSIG
- IATEFL's Mawsig
- www.TESOLacademic.org
- Materials Dev. Association – www.matsda.org
- 'Editor's Choice' or 'State of the art' articles

Pay attention to

- (1) validity of findings,
- (2) relevance of findings to pedagogy, and
- (3) practicality of findings for classroom.

- Be aware of fashions!



Teacher research

1. Formulate research question.
2. Maybe do some background reading.
3. Develop a data collection method.
4. Collect data.
5. Collate & analyse data.
6. Reflect & draw conclusions.
7. Share.
8. Repeat as necessary.

Thank you for your attention!

Dankeschön!

Gracias!

Diolch!

References

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